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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/908,930	07/19/2001	Shih-Ping Liou	2000P07787US01	1035

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Siemens Corporation  
Intellectual Property Department  
186 Wood Avenue South  
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EXAMINER

SINGH, RACHNA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 05/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/908,930

Applicant(s)

LIOU ET AL.

Examiner

Rachna Singh

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed 2/9/05.
2. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 10, and 12 are independent claims.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gong, US 6,751,776 B1, 6/15/04 (filed 8/6/99) in view of August et al., US 2003/0028378 A1, 2/6/03 (filed 9/9/99).

In reference to claims 1, 10, and 12, Gong teaches a method and apparatus for personalized multimedia summarization based upon a user specified theme. See abstract. Compare to ***"a method for generating summaries of a video. . ."***. Gong's teaches retrieving multimedia imagery relevant to user-supplied keywords and topics. The multimedia imagery is segmented into multimedia scene shots. See column 6, lines 24-34. Gong further teaches requiring a user to select a theme of multimedia summarization and extracting multimedia features from each multimedia scene shot using natural language processing and video analysis technique. The multimedia scenes comprise frames. See column 6, lines 24-52. Compare to ***"inputting summary sentences, visual information, and a section-begin frame and a section-end frame for each story in a video; selecting a type of presentation; locating a***

***set of images available for each story***". Gong teaches that the summaries include video, audio, and textual information; however, he does not explicitly state that the summary sentences (keyword or topics) are audited to generate an auditory narration of each story; however, August does. August teaches a method of digitally converting text to audible speech and providing the speech to an interactive language instruction system. August discloses digitally converting text to audible speech to a user or student. The audible speech is used in a language lesson where the lesson includes video, photographs, other media, and linking the sound files created from the text-audio conversion with the images and content of the lesson. See page 1, paragraphs [0001]-[0004]. Compare to ***"auditing the summary sentences to generate a plurality of summary audio segments corresponding to an auditory narration of each story; composing the set of images to selectively match the set of images with the summary sentences to generate a plurality of summary image segments; matching said summary audio segments with the summary image sentences to generate a plurality of summary image segments to generate a story summary video for each story in the video; and combining each of the generated story summaries to generate a summary of the video"***. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate August's text-audio conversion and linking with video and other media in a system such as Gong's as it is desirable to synchronize the various components of a multimedia system in order to supply the user with a thorough multimedia summary including video and audio that are in sync. See abstract of Gong in which he discusses the need for a unified platform of

video. Furthermore, Gong suggests the synchronization of audio, video, and text, thus it would have been desirable to have a means to provide audio for the user-supplied themes relating to the video.

In reference to claim 2 and 13, Gong teaches that the visual information is comprised of video shots and frames.

In reference to claim 3, 11, and 14, Gong teaches retrieving multimedia imagery relevant to the user-specified keywords and topics. The multimedia features are extracted according to the theme selected by the user. The multimedia features include scene shots which have a certain length. See column 6. The user selected theme and individual multimedia features are then obtained and relevance measurements are determined to see which scene should be included in the multimedia summarization. See column 6. The summarization includes keywords/topics extracted from the imagery, video, and audio. Compare to ***“generating story boundaries and sentence data using story extractor; selecting a length of a story summary; summarizing said sentence data to produce at least one summary sentence, wherein a number of the summary sentences produced corresponds to the length of the story summary; and ordering the at least one summary sentence based on its selection order”***.

In reference to claims 4, 5, 15, and 16, Gong discloses a multimedia summarization and presenting the scene shots to a user which could be in the form of media or computer-readable media which could include a slide format or poster. See column 12, lines 49-67.

In reference to claim 6 and 17, Gong teaches identifying features from each multimedia scene shot which includes a number of frames including a beginning and an end. See column 6, lines 1-67.

In reference to claim 7-9 and 18-20, Gong teaches retrieving multimedia imagery relevant to the user-specified keywords and topics. The multimedia features are extracted according to the theme selected by the user. The multimedia features include scene shots which have a certain length. See column 6. The user selected theme and individual multimedia features are then obtained and relevance measurements are determined to see which scene should be included in the multimedia summarization. See column 6. The method also includes forming a subset of individual scene shots that are considered relevant and removing duplicate scene shots. See column 15. Gong further teaches that a time length limit is allotted to a portion of each time slot thus a selected multimedia scene shot's time is proportional to its relevance. See column 16, lines 35-51.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed 2/9/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Gong does not teach "composing the set of images. . .to generate a plurality of summary image segments". Examiner respectfully disagrees. Gong discloses retrieving multimedia imagery relevant to user-supplied keywords and topics and segmenting the multimedia imagery into multimedia scene shots. See column 6, lines 24-34.

Applicant argues Gong does not teach “auditing the summary sentences to generate a plurality of summary audio segments . . .” Examiner utilized August reference to address this claim limitation. Applicant argues that August does not teach any selection, separation, or synthesis of media materials to create summaries of such material or auditing the summary sentences to generate a plurality of summary audio segments. August teaches a method of digitally converting text to audible speech and providing the speech to an interactive language instruction system. August discloses digitally converting text to audible speech to a user or student. The audible speech is used in a language lesson where the lesson includes video, photographs, other media, and linking the sound files created from the text-audio conversion with the images and content of the lesson. See page 1, paragraphs [0001]-[0004]. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate August’s text-audio conversion and linking with video and other media in a system such as Gong’s as it is desirable to synchronize the various components of a multimedia system in order to supply the user with a thorough multimedia summary including video and audio that are in sync. See abstract of Gong in which he discusses the need for a unified platform of video. Furthermore, Gong suggests the synchronization of audio, video, and text, thus it would have been desirable to have a means to provide audio for the user-supplied themes relating to the video.

In view of the comments and rejections above, Examiner’s position is maintained.

***Conclusion***

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rachna Singh whose telephone number is 571-272-4099. Starting in mid-October, the examiner should be reached at 571.272.4099. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on 571-272-4090.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RS  
05/06/05

  
JOSEPH FEILD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER